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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURE

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## Better Prospects for Wheat

Outcome for winter wheat continues more promising as the season develops. Crop of 703 million bushels, indicated May 1, would be 5 percent larger than estimated a month ago. It would be down, however, from last year's production by about 4 percent, and down from average by nearly a fifth. This large output is indicated despite the fact that seeded acreage is down a fifth from last year. Loss of acreage between seeding and harvest is expected to be unusually low this year.

Rapid completion of spring wheat seedings was virtually assured by recent fair weather, although later starts were made in seeding in most States.

## Rye Prospects Improved

Rye condition, at 88 percent of normal on May 1 compares with 84 on April 1 and the 1946-55 average for May 1 of 86. Better moisture conditions brought improvement generally with only 4 States reporting lower conditions May 1 than on April 1.

## Pastures Good, Hay Plentiful

Pasture growth and prospects on May 1 were better than last year in almost all States and grazing was rapidly changing from scarcity to surplus in a widening area. Condition for the country as a whole, at 85 percent of normal, was 9 points above a month earlier and topped a year earlier by 17 points. Although shortages still persisted in Western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, range areas have the best feeding prospects in 5 years.

Hay carryover from last year--17.7 million tons on May 1--is second largest in nearly 50 years. In view of pastures and hay crops now coming on, these large hay stocks indicate general forage plenty.

## Milk Output Holding Up Well

The 11.4 billion pounds of milk produced in April was 1 percent more than in April last year and topped 10-year average by 9 percent. The January-April total, however, at 41.6 billion pounds, was up only slightly from a year earlier. On a per capita basis, production in April--enough to provide 2.24 pounds daily per person--was about the same as in April last year and was down from the 10-year average by 3 percent.

## Two Percent More Eggs

The 5.7 billion eggs laid in April were 2 percent more than in April last year, but 4 percent below the 10-year average. During the first 4 months of this year, production was 2 percent larger than a year earlier, but about the same as the average.

April increases from last year were 5 percent in the West North Central and South Atlantic

States, 2 percent in the North Atlantic and 1 percent in the West; other regions, about same as year earlier.

## Spring Vegetable Prospects

Vegetable supplies for fresh market, in the aggregate will be significantly smaller this spring than last. Biggest reductions in prospect are for early spring sweet corn, onions, and tomatoes, and spring peppers and shallots....smaller output also for early spring broccoli and green peas, and for spring beets, carrots, and spinach. Promising to be in larger supply than a year ago are early spring cauliflower, cucumbers and lettuce, early and mid-spring asparagus and snap beans, spring eggplant and celery.

## For Processing, Smaller Acreage

Acreage of principal processing vegetables is indicated to be about 3 percent less than that planted in 1956. Substantial acreage reductions are in prospect for processing tomatoes, green lima beans, beets and contract kraut cabbage...larger acreages, however, for snap beans and cucumbers for pickling.

## Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Mar. 15 1957	Apr. 15 1957	
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.).....	ct.	29.80	30.55
Wheat (bu.).....	dol.	2.07	2.05
Rice (100 lb.).....	dol.	4.92	4.80
Corn (bu.) .....	dol.	1.20	1.21
Peanuts (lb.).....	ct.	11.2	11.2
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.) .....	ct.	58.7	59.1
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.).....	dol.	4.19	1 3.99
Wool (lb.).....	ct.	2 48.7	2 50.9
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.).....	dol.	1.03	.985
Cottonseed (ton).....	dol.	60.60	---
Flaxseed (bu.).....	dol.	2.89	2.80
Hay, baled (ton).....	dol.	21.60	21.10
Oats (bu.).....	dol.	.720	.712
Potatoes (cwt.).....	dol.	1.33	1.24
Rye (bu.).....	dol.	1.16	1.13
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.).....	dol.	2.07	2.04
Soybeans (bu.).....	dol.	2.26	2.24
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.).....	dol.	4.74	5.08
Oranges, on tree (box).....	dol.	1.92	1.78
Apples, for fresh use (bu.).....	dol.	3.38	3.81
Beef cattle (100 lb.).....	dol.	16.00	16.90
Calves (100 lb.).....	dol.	17.60	18.30
Hogs (100 lb.) .....	dol.	16.80	17.40
Lambs (100 lb.).....	dol.	19.80	20.70
Chickens, all (lb.) .....	ct.	18.8	18.4
Eggs (dozen).....	ct.	30.6	30.8

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

## Big Supplies of Potatoes

Supplies of fall-crop potatoes in storage are larger than a year ago. Acreage and indicated production for early spring harvest are larger than last year. Acreage and estimated production for late spring harvest are also up. Accordingly, prices of potatoes into early summer are expected to stay below those of a year earlier.

## Better Than Average Orange Crop

Orange production, including tangerines, 1956-57 season, estimated at 138 million boxes is up 1 percent from last season and 17 percent above average. Remaining to be harvested, May 1, 49 million boxes, compared with 48.7 million year earlier. Included in the unharvested are 20 million boxes of California Valencias which will be harvested during the summer and fall months.

## Grapefruit, Smaller Crop

Grapefruit production at 43.6 million boxes, is 4 percent less than last season and 10 percent below average. Compared with last month, the estimate is up 1 million boxes. Some 5.7 million boxes remained for harvest May 1, compared with 7.1 million at same time last year.

## Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Mar. 1956	Jan.-Mar. 1957
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk .....	Bil. lb.	1 41.5	1 41.6
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	544	544
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	392	387
Butter, creamery.....	Mil. lb.	357	351
Cheese, American.....	Mil. lb.	214	219
Ice cream .....	Mil. gal.	137	135
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs .....	Billions	1 21.7	1 22.0
Poultry meat <sup>2</sup> .....	Mil. lb.	826	938
Canned poultry .....	Mil. lb.	48.7	50.0
Liquid egg .....	Mil. lb.	107	116
Dried egg (egg solids) .....	Mil. lb.	4.7	7.6
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	81.9	79.6
Chicks hatched-Total <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1 925	1 859
Chicks hatched-Broiler <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1 493	1 517
Poults hatched <sup>3</sup> :			
Heavy breeds .....	Millions	1 34.6	1 37.5
Light breeds .....	Millions	1 4.3	1 4.3
<u>Meat Production<sup>2</sup></u> (dressed weight)			
Beef .....	Mil. lb.	3,447	3,503
Veal .....	Mil. lb.	336	345
Pork .....	Mil. lb.	2,941	2,522
Lamb and mutton .....	Mil. lb.	202	188
Total red meat .....	Mil. lb.	6,926	6,558
<u>Slaughter<sup>2</sup></u>			
Cattle .....	1,000 head	6,335	6,510
Calves.....	1,000 head	2,947	2,999
Hogs .....	1,000 head	22,709	19,257
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	4,177	3,853

<sup>1</sup>January-April.

<sup>2</sup>Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

<sup>3</sup>By commercial hatcheries.

## Good Prospect For Peaches

Production of peaches in the Southern States, at 12,424,000 bushels, is up 12 percent from last year and 14 percent above average. Crop is indicated above both last year and average in N.C., S.C., Ga., La., and Texas; and below, in Ala., Miss., Ark., and Okla.

## Smaller '56 Cotton Crop, Lower Average Price

Value of the 1956 cotton crop was down from 1955 by \$268,000,000, estimates of the Crop Reporting Board show. Value of the '56 crop, \$2,111,000,000, is based on the average price of 31.7 cents per pound for the season to May 1, 1957 for the estimated 13,310,000 bales. For the '55 season, value was \$2,379,030,000; crop of 14,721,000 bales, averaging 32.33 cents per pound.

## High Yield on Small Acreage

Last year's yield per acre of cotton, 409 pounds, was 8 pounds under the record high of '55 and compared with the 10-year average of

## Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1956		1957		
	Apr.	Yr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) <sup>1</sup> .....	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Farm employment.....	57.6	58.4	68.0	58.0	58.1
Family .....	7.7	7.9	5.6	6.4	7.4
Hired .....	6.2	6.0	4.6	5.1	5.9
	1.5	1.9	1.0	1.3	1.5
Index numbers (1947-49=100)					
Industrial production <sup>2</sup> .....	143	143	146	146	145
Total personal income payments <sup>3</sup> .....	159	161	167	167	---
Weekly factory earnings <sup>4</sup> .....	158	161	165	164	161
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker <sup>4</sup> .....	149	151	156	155	155
Wholesale prices, all commodities <sup>4</sup> .....	114	114	117	117	117
Farm commodities .....	88	88	89	89	91
Food, processed .....	100	102	104	104	104
Consumer price index <sup>4</sup> .....	115	116	119	119	---
Food.....	110	112	114	113	---
Index numbers (1910-14=100)					
Prices received by farmers .....	235	236	234	237	241
Crops.....	245	242	233	236	239
Food grains.....	229	224	235	235	233
Feed grains and hay.....	185	185	181	181	180
Cotton.....	275	268	255	252	258
Tobacco.....	453	453	458	459	459
Oil bearing crops .....	253	250	260	265	264
Fruit .....	218	225	221	237	237
Vegetables for fresh market.....	260	254	225	236	261
Livestock and products.....	227	230	234	238	242
Meat animals.....	237	238	249	263	275
Dairy products.....	246	259	266	260	253
Poultry and eggs .....	180	177	157	150	150
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities.....	262	264	271	272	273
Used in living .....	274	278	284	284	285
Used in production.....	248	249	256	258	260
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	284	286	294	295	296
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	538	536	554	554	562
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index) .....	83	83	80	80	81

<sup>1</sup>Bureau of the Census.

<sup>2</sup>Federal Reserve Board.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Commerce.

<sup>4</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics.

283 pounds. The 15.6 million acres harvested compares with 16.9 million in '55 and the 10-year average of 22.1 million.

### Cottonseed, Smaller Production, Higher Value

Cottonseed production last year, at 5,423,000 tons, is smaller than the 6,043,000 tons in 1955. Average price was \$53.50 per ton and the production brought 290 million dollars. This compares with \$44.60 per ton and a production value of 269 million dollars in '55.

### New Estimate on Last Year's Tobacco

Production of all types tobacco grown in 1956 has been placed at 2,181 million pounds (revised estimates). New estimate is 1.7 percent above the estimate published last December. The 1956 Crop was harvested from only 1,365,000 acres, about 9 percent below the previous year's acreage and the lowest since 1941.

### Maple Syrup Output Up a Sixth

Production of maple syrup in 1957 is estimated at 1,829,000 gallons, about 16 percent above last year's output and 10 percent above average.

### Early Lambs "Good to Excellent"

Early lambs on May 1 were in good to excellent condition in all of the early lamb States. Lambs have made good growth and most areas have a plentiful supply of new feed. (Details of various producing areas will be found in Crop Reporting Board's "Early Lamb Situation", issued May 13.)

### Cattle Slaughter to Average Lower

With 4 percent more cattle on feed than a year ago, slaughter of fed cattle will stay large the rest of 1957. However, grazing conditions have improved and marketings of cattle off grass are not expected to reach the drought stimulated levels of last summer and fall. This means that fewer grass cattle will go to slaughter and that total cattle slaughter will probably average lower than last year, during the rest of 1957.

### Lower Meat Consumption Forecast

Consumption of all meat in 1957 is forecast at 159 pounds compared with a record of 167 pounds in 1956...down about equally for beef and pork. (See the May "Livestock and Meat Situation," AMS, USDA.)

### Seasonal Rise in Farm Employment

A million more persons were at work on U. S. farms late in April than a month earlier. Total (family workers and hired) in late April was 7,455,000, compared with 6,400,000 in late March, the usual seasonal rise for this time of year. Four percent fewer persons were at work, however, in late April than a year earlier, indicating that farm specialization and mechanization still are contributing to the long time downtrend.

### Big Increase in Agricultural Exports

Agricultural exports through March of this fiscal year totaled a record 3.6 billion dollars, or 45 percent more than in the same period a year

ago. Exports of cotton, wheat, rice, soybeans and soybean oil are notably ahead of a year ago.

### Cotton Exports Highest in Years

Exports of cotton through March of this fiscal year totaled 5.5 million bales and the total for the entire fiscal year is expected to exceed 7 million bales, compared with 2.2 million for fiscal 1956.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

### Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, March 1957<sup>1</sup>

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Maine.....	8,586	10,394	18,980
New Hampshire.....	4,341	996	5,337
Vermont.....	8,219	1,631	9,850
Massachusetts.....	9,007	3,689	12,696
Rhode Island.....	1,193	489	1,682
Connecticut.....	8,784	5,852	14,636
New York.....	49,036	14,036	63,072
New Jersey.....	16,130	5,764	21,894
Pennsylvania.....	46,836	17,215	64,051
North Atlantic.....	152,132	60,066	212,198
Ohio.....	53,284	24,262	77,546
Indiana.....	54,320	24,735	79,055
Illinois.....	87,733	74,317	162,050
Michigan.....	32,478	14,873	47,351
Wisconsin.....	78,575	8,360	86,935
East North Central.....	306,390	146,547	452,937
Minnesota.....	75,980	28,848	104,828
Iowa.....	132,671	28,981	161,652
Missouri.....	51,840	13,192	65,032
North Dakota.....	11,988	14,964	26,952
South Dakota.....	26,680	5,516	32,196
Nebraska.....	45,902	11,281	57,183
Kansas.....	36,807	10,813	47,120
West North Central.....	381,868	113,095	494,963
Delaware.....	7,749	1,349	9,098
Maryland.....	13,396	2,558	15,954
Virginia.....	16,525	6,745	23,270
West Virginia.....	5,831	1,255	7,086
North Carolina.....	18,581	11,589	30,170
South Carolina.....	7,207	4,547	11,754
Georgia.....	25,827	8,793	34,620
Florida.....	12,485	64,277	76,762
South Atlantic.....	107,601	101,113	208,714
Kentucky.....	18,800	3,618	22,418
Tennessee.....	17,317	4,216	21,533
Alabama.....	16,387	6,172	22,559
Mississippi.....	12,856	8,854	21,710
Arkansas.....	12,301	6,076	18,377
Louisiana.....	9,092	3,818	12,910
Oklahoma.....	21,810	6,268	28,078
Texas.....	65,965	19,629	85,594
South Central.....	174,528	58,651	233,179
Montana.....	10,460	6,707	17,167
Idaho.....	12,437	8,806	21,243
Wyoming.....	4,231	1,142	5,373
Colorado.....	21,742	5,635	27,377
New Mexico.....	7,176	2,629	9,805
Arizona.....	10,433	9,945	20,378
Utah.....	7,751	1,249	9,000
Nevada.....	2,762	477	3,239
Washington.....	15,270	13,744	29,014
Oregon.....	11,900	8,901	20,801
California.....	77,202	54,719	131,921
Western.....	181,364	113,954	295,318
United States.....	1,303,883	593,426	1,897,309

<sup>1</sup> All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

**Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States<sup>1</sup>**

	March 1957	April 1957 <sup>2</sup>
<b>CASH RECEIPTS:</b>		
Total marketings and CCC loans <sup>3</sup> .....	Mil. dol. 1,897	Mil. dol. 1,900
Livestock and products .....	1,304	1,400
Meat animals.....	649	
Dairy products.....	398	
Poultry and eggs .....	229	
Other.....	28	
Crops .....	593	500
Food grains.....	42	
Feed crops.....	181	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	29	
Oil-bearing crops.....	66	
Tobacco.....	8	
Vegetables .....	92	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	74	
Other.....	101	
Government payments .....	29	
Grand total .....	1,926	
	1947-49 = 100	1947-49 = 100
<b>VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:</b>		
All commodities.....	91	90
Livestock and products.....	119	124
Crops .....	54	46

<sup>1</sup> For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

**Farm-Retail Price Spreads**

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1956 average.....	\$ 976	\$ 390	\$ 586	40%
1956-Mar .....	949	374	575	39
1957-Feb.....	993	381	612	38
1957-Mar.....	987	387	600	39

<sup>1</sup> Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing. For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

Exports of cotton are the highest since the mid-thirties, now that sales abroad under present Government programs are made at world competitive prices.

**Wheat Shipments Large**

Shipments of wheat and flour to foreign countries totaled 385 million bushels July through March of the present marketing year, 82 percent more than the 211 million exported in the same period last year. For the entire marketing year about 500 million bushels may be exported. This would compare with 344 million a year earlier.

For the first 4 months of this year number of egg-type chicks hatched was down 21 percent from the same period last year.